

ALDA Balkans talks

Citizens' upraise in Serbia : regional impact and the way forward

Date: 20.03.2025
18:30 - 20:00 CET

Press Club, Rue Froissart 95, Brussels

DRAFT

Serbia is currently experiencing a period of political instability, marked by widespread protests and growing public discontent following the tragedy in Novi Sad in 2024. These student demonstrations, driven by concerns over the lack of accountability of the government, democratic backsliding and governance challenges, have intensified tensions within the country and raised questions about its trajectory toward EU integration.

The instability has provoked a chain reaction as the regional impact in the Balkans of these events is significant, as they could either contribute to further destabilization or serve as a catalyst for democratic reforms.

For the last 30 years, ALDA has been supporting the Balkan region through its activities, as the first Local democracy agency was established in Subotica, Serbia in 1993. In this context, ALDA is organising this debate in order to discuss the key updates on the situation in Serbia, assessing its implications for regional stability and the EU enlargement process. The discussion will also highlight the critical role of civil society in addressing democratic challenges, ensuring transparency, and fostering dialogue through the principles of participatory democracy, the speciality of ALDA. This event will also be the occasion to present two key initiatives of ALDA and Local Democracy Agencies, such as Shared Horizons initiative and BOOST, on support of local democracy in the Western Balkan through youth and regional activities.

The debate will feature insights from high-level speakers, starting with ALDA's President and director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia, Nataša Vučković, a member of the cabinet of the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Marta Kos and MEP Tonino Picula.

Speakers:

- Nataša Vučković, *President of ALDA, Director of the Center for democracy foundation Belgrade, Serbia*
- Member of cabinet of Marta Kos, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood (tbc)
- Antonella Valmorbida, *Secretary General of ALDA*
- Tonino Picula, MEP (tbc)
- Local Elected representative

Moderator:

- Adrien Licha - *European association for local democracy*

Location: [Press Club of Brussels](#)

Language: English

Programme

18:30-18:45	Welcoming speech and introduction - Adrien Licha - ALDA
18:45- 19:15	Citizens' upraise in Serbia : regional impact and the way forward - Nataša Vučković, <i>President of ALDA and director of the Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia</i> - Tonino Picula (tbc) - Member of cabinet of Marta Kos, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood (tbc)
19:15 - 19:30	Instruments for civic participation in the Balkans, - Antonella Valmorbida, <i>Secretary General of ALDA</i> - Local Elected representative
19:35 - 20:00	Open Discussion